Our Quarantined Church Life
“But he had to go through Samaria.”
- John 4:4

The recent pandemic is challenging us to find new patterns of living. For some of us the modifications might be relatively minimal, while for others they are drastic. This strange new “land” we find ourselves in can be very disconcerting and disorienting. There are perhaps many scripture verses which could be used as we try to gain understanding of our new reality. For today I have chosen John 4:4. While a Jew wouldn’t want to be seen in Samaria, Jesus went there willingly and encouraged others to be with him. I find hope in Jesus’ new reality because not only did the Disciples go with him—but he was able to reach new people with God’s mercy and grace and eventually extend God’s love to those who seemed to be beyond God’s reach. It is my hope and prayer that moving much of our weekly ministry online, that we will reach new people with God’s mercy and grace while extending God’s love to everyone!!

WORSHIP: We will be worshiping online until the restrictions for gatherings are lifted or until we find another safe way in which we can “gather” without compromising our own health or the health of those around us. Please visit the church website www.umcbranford.org to view the most recent worship service.

STUDY GROUPS: The Tuesday evening study group will be meeting using Zoom. Please contact Pastor Kent to receive log-in information if you would like to “attend”. We have both video & call-in options for those who would like to participate. Everyone is welcome!! Monday Morning Quarterbacking and Thursday Morning Study Group will meet by Conference Call. Please join us on Monday or Thursday at 10:10 AM by calling 425-436-6385 and entering access code 841200#

MEETINGS: Our committee meetings will be held via Zoom. Please go to www.Zoom.us and click “Sign Up. It’s Free” to create your account. All committee members will automatically be sent an invitation to their meetings. If you would like to receive an invitation to join a meeting, please contact Pastor Kent ahead of time so you can receive the log-in information.

FINANCES: As a result of not meeting in the church building, we are not receiving the offering during weekly worship. If you are able, please mail a check including your tithes and offerings to the church. We will be making weekly deposits of offerings, which will enable us to stay current on all of our financial commitments. We are also cutting expenses where possible. For example, we have cancelled the weekly altar flower delivery and the trash pick up.

COMMUNICATION: Due to the potential spread of the virus, we have encouraged Brenda and Sharon not to be in the building. We are, however, continuing to pay their wages as we look forward to their continuing work among us after the health crisis is ended. Please feel free to contact Pastor Kent for any administrative or ministry needs by texting or calling his cell phone at 845-522-1233 or by sending an email to umcbpastor@gmail.com

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP: At the time of publication, it is hard to know what opportunities we may have to gather from Palm Sunday (4/5) through Easter Sunday (4/12). This includes questions about worshipping at St. Stephen’s AME Zion on Holy Thursday, as well as Good Friday worship in Branford in the afternoon and our sanctuary in the evening. As the time gets closer, please keep an eye on emails coming from the Pastor for updates on worship opportunities.

Pastor Kent
April Birthdays
3  Stephen Solomon
4  Emily Mazzucco, Gus VanDerMaelen
10 Robert Emslie, William Gagné
11 Stacey Cronk, Josh Caruso, Michael Haggerty
12 William Schickler
14 Amos Talbott
16 Daniel Gagné, Jessa Holcomb
20 Rebecca Mahoney
21 Robin Wolek
23 Janet Viets
25 Sharon Bernardini, Mary Choronzy, Alice Klein, Nicole Sevigny
26 John Beatty
27 Alexandra Loukides, Ryan Marszalek
30 Courtney Rader

April Anniversaries
9  Dorothy & Harry Chamberlain
19 Rosemary & Tony Luzzi

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
The 20th of every month - please send articles to Lori Cartwright at loriahlcart@gmail.com

Missed a Sunday? Unable to attend worship?
You can catch the weekly sermon video at www.umcbranford.org

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UMCB:
https://www.facebook.com/umcbranford/

“Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives.”
**Holiday Festival 2020**

Let’s have a positive attitude that by November we will be able to go back to “normal.” In the meantime, if you are looking for something to pass the time in your hibernation, start projects that will produce goods to contribute to the festival.

My count is 8 hats. How are you doing?

Stay well -

*Ginger*

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**Sewing for God**

Due to the gathering restriction, we will be safe and not meet during April. Prayerfully, everything will be back to normal by May.

On March 6, Gayle, Cindy and Rosemary delivered 14 quilts to Artis. The response from them was overwhelming. I don’t think they could have picked a favorite – EXCEPT for one of our military quilts, which they felt was so nice, they are going to display it on their Military wall. Thank you for your design, Gayle.

Until we meet again, Gayle and I will continue to make some tops at home. So please be aware that come May, we will be layering these tops!

Please call Rosemary at (203) 589-1620 if you have any questions (please leave a message).

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**AA Online Meetings**

For those in need, links to online and voice meetings can be found at: [https://www.aa-intergroup.org/directory.php](https://www.aa-intergroup.org/directory.php)
To all the Secret Pals

I’m thinking of everyone. Please be safe and say a prayer for your Secret Pal during this time.

LOOKING FOR YOUR SODA CAN TABS!
Next Fill-Up Date: March 2019

Please continue to help support our friend at Ronald McDonald House. It’s an easy way to support the Ronald McDonald House New Haven so they can continue to provide their services at no charge.

It’s easy! All you need to do is remove the tab from each can before you recycle it. It’s fun! You can involve community groups and your family in supporting the cause without a lot of effort. Approximately 1,200 tabs make up a pound. Put a small jar on your counter and you will be surprised how fast it will fill up.

Let’s Do Lunch, Ladies!

Come join us for Lunch
Monday, April 20 • 12:30pm – 2pm
Conditions permitting - will be postponed to a later date if gathering restrictions are still in place.
Bistro Mediterranean & Tapas Bar
383 Main Street, East Haven
Fix-Price Lunch

Passing of the Peace - Video Edition

We are hoping to be able to share the Peace of Christ with each other, even though we cannot be in the same room. Please consider recording a short video of you and your family saying your name, a special message and end with "Peace be with you."

When recording the video: press start and count to 5 (in your head) before speaking. Then count to 5 (again, in your head) before hitting stop. This will give some buffer before and after so that the video can be stitched cleanly together with others.

If you will be contributing a video, please send it to umcbpastor@gmail.com by Friday. This will give Roger time to add them to the service video during editing.

“Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives.”
The United Methodist Lent Quiz

Answers on the last page of the newsletter

1. What does the term ‘Lent,’ which comes from ‘lenten,’ mean?
   - Sacrifice
   - Time
   - Spring
   - March Madness

2. How were ashes imposed in the early church?
   - The shape of a cross was drawn on the forehead.
   - Ashes were smeared across closed eyelids.
   - Ashes were poured or sprinkled over the head.

3. Why do people give things up for Lent?
   - To follow the example of Jesus’ 40-day fast in the wilderness.
   - To help us focus on prayer and devotions.
   - To give the acquired savings to the poor.
   - All of the above.

4. What snack food has significance during Lent?
   - Chocolate
   - Pretzels
   - Popcorn
   - All of the above.

5. Many people fast during Lent. How often did John Wesley fast?
   - Twice a week
   - Twice a month
   - Twice a year
   - Rarely
   - He did not fast.

6. Why does Lent last 40 days?
   - To represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, tempted by Satan.
   - To recall the 40 days and nights the earth was flooded in the Old Testament.
   - To remind us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert.

7. What do some United Methodists not sing at Lent?
   - Doxologies
   - Alleluia
   - “In the Garden”
   - The communion liturgy

8. Which hymn, based on St. Patrick’s prayer, would be a good Lenten devotion?
   - “Jesus Walked This Lonely Valley”
   - “Christ Beside Me”
   - “O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice”
   - “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

9. True or false? Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent.
   - True
   - False

10. When early Methodists in America sat in a church on a mourner’s bench, they would:
    - Repent their sins
    - Experience a new birth
    - Rededicate themselves to Jesus
    - All of the above

Test your knowledge of all things United Methodist with fun and information-packed quizzes:
United Methodist Lent Quiz - Answers

1. All of the above.
2. True.
3. False.
4. Pretzels.
5. “Christ is risen.”
6. “Alleluia.”
7. “Alleluia.”
8. “Christ Beside Me.”
10. All of the above.

poured or sprinkled over the head.